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AUTHOR Winchell, Anne
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ABSTRACT

Kingsborough Community College's (KCC) New Start Program is designed to assist students facing dismissal at four-year institutions. After referral by the senior college, students who choose to enroll in New Start are admitted to KCC in good academic standing, are permitted to apply up to 30 previously earned credits toward an associate degree, and are assigned a counselor to assist them with academic, transfer, career, and personal concerns and make appropriate referrals to on- and off-campus support services. Data on the program's achievements during its first three years of operation indicate that: (1) the number of cooperating senior colleges increased from one to nine; (2) about 90% of the participants attended KCC as full-time, day students; (3) continuation rates were usually about 80% for the fall to spring semesters, and 65% for the spring to fall semesters; (4) the 355 students enrolled in New Start in 1987-88 maintained a grade point average of 2.22 and completed 90% of their courses; and (5) of the 473 students participating in New Start since the program's inception, 17% earned degrees or transferred back to senior colleges, 54% were still enrolled at KCC in spring 1988, 20% dropped out, and 9.1% were dismissed from KCC because of poor academic performance. (EJV)

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Kingsborough Community College
of
The City University of New York

NEW START PROGRAM
THIRD-YEAR REPORT

Prepared by
Anne Winchell, PhD
Associate Professor,
Student Development

July, 1988

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Kingsborough Community College's New Start Program, begun in September, 1985, is designed to assist students who have been unsuccessful at senior colleges. It is based on the observation that students who have demonstrated academic ability but have had difficult initial adjustments to college often benefit from a second chance at higher education with some additional support.

The New Start Program is administered by a six-person committee whose members direct the program's admissions/recruitment, counseling, and academic advisement functions and represent it within the College and with the cooperating senior colleges and in the community. Central to the program is its counseling component: Each New Start student is assigned to a counselor to assist him or her in overcoming previous problems and making the most of opportunities offered at Kingsborough. The counselors offer assistance with academic, transfer, career, and personal concerns and make referrals to other on-campus and off-campus support services.

The cooperating senior colleges refer to New Start their students who are having academic difficulty and facing dismissal. Students who choose to enroll in the program are admitted to Kingsborough in good academic standing; their unsatisfactory grade point averages are not carried over, and each student can use up to 30 previously earned credits toward an associate degree.

During the program's first three years, the number of cooperating senior colleges has increased ninefold. Brooklyn College has been involved since the outset. The College of Staten Island and Queens College were added the second year. John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Lehman College, Hunter College,

State University of New York Maritime College, and Adelphi University began participation at the beginning of the third year, and Baruch College was added for the second half of the third year.

Enrollment

The New Start enrollment statistics are presented in Table 1. By the end of the program's second year, 240 students had been enrolled in the program; by the end of this third year that figure had nearly doubled, having increased to 473. Nearly 2/3 (64.0%) of these students have come from Brooklyn College. So far no students from Adelphi, a private university in Nassau County, have enrolled, and geographic distance probably has contributed to the small enrollments from Lehman, Queens, and SUNY Maritime as well.

Most New Start participants (usually about 90%) register for full-time day-session programs and, as will be discussed in the following section of this report, tend to complete nearly all of their courses. The semester-to-semester retention/continuation rates usually are about 80% (fall to spring) and 65% (spring to fall); some of the students who do not return are graduates or successful transfers.

The majority of students in the program have chosen to major in Liberal Arts (25.8%), Business Administration (21.4%), or Accounting (11.6%). In Table 2 are listed the curriculum choices of all students in the program. The types of Kingsborough degrees earned by New Start students are included in Table 3.

Academic Performance and Other Outcomes

The 355 students who were enrolled in New Start during the 1987-88 academic year continued the overall pattern of success of the previous years' students.

As in the past, City University of New York students must maintain cumulative grade point averages of 2.00 or above and cumulative rates of completion of at least 75% to remain in good academic standing. The majority of this year's New Start participants exceeded these standards: Their overall median grade point average was 2.22, and their median rate of completion was 90%. Nearly one-fourth (22.3%) of them not only performed satisfactorily but excelled, accumulating grade point averages of 3.00 or above, and 40.6% had perfect (100%) rates of completion.

Two of the cooperating senior colleges, Staten Island and John Jay, offer both baccalaureate and associate degree programs. Evidently most students who apply to those colleges as freshmen elect, understandably, to pursue associate degrees first and so do not have to meet baccalaureate program admission standards. In last year's report (Winchell, 1987) it was noted that students from Staten Island's associate programs seemed to be less successful here than those from the other colleges' baccalaureate programs. The Staten Island students were then targeted for additional counseling assistance, and former Staten Island students did somewhat better this year (2.00 median GPA, up from 1.87; 88% median rate of completion, up from 74%). This year's former John Jay students appear to have had similar difficulties (1.72 median GPA, 77% median rate of completion). When grade point average and rate of completion

statistics for former baccalaureate and associate program populations are separated (see Table 6), the 255 former baccalaureate students were more successful in relation to both criteria (2.31 median GPA, 27.5% over 3.00 GPA; 93% median rate of completion) than were the 100 former associate students (1.94 median GPA, 9.0% over 3.00 GPA; 83% median rate of completion).

The June, 1988, enrollment status of the 473 students who have participated in New Start is reported in Table 7. About 17% have earned Kingsborough degrees and/or are known to have transferred to senior colleges or returned to their previous colleges. More than half (53.7%) were still enrolled here at the end of the Spring, 1988, semester and had registered for summer session and/or preregistered for fall. About 20% may have dropped out or "stopped out" of Kingsborough, but this figure includes a sizeable but not precisely known number of students who subsequently enrolled at other colleges. Only 9.1% of the entire group have been academically dismissed from Kingsborough.

Of the 53 graduates included in Table 3, all but four elected to continue their education immediately after Kingsborough, and all of these were admitted to at least one of their senior college choices. A number of them have since demonstrated impressive successes, including: several recipients of bachelor's degrees from CUNY senior colleges; a student doing well at SUNY's competitive University Center at Buffalo; a business major getting consistent 3.00 grade reports at his former senior college;

a student selected for SUNY College at Brockport's political science honors program; two students named to the Dean's List at St. John's University; a psychology major urged by her senior college professors to apply for graduate study.

Future Development

Now completing its third year, the New Start Program is continuing to achieve its goal of giving former senior college students a second chance at academic success. Despite the fact that all 473 participants had been faced with dismissal from their former colleges, more than 90% have avoided repeating that experience here.

Next year, efforts to enhance the program further will be focused in two areas. The first concerns the students from Staten Island and John Jay. Many of these students, having met less stringent freshman admission standards than their former baccalaureate counterparts, may have lesser histories of previous academic success upon which to draw. During the past year, the counseling component of the program attempted to provide additional support for the former Staten Island students, including closer monitoring of progress, more referrals to remedial services, and, in cases where dismissal seemed imminent, assistance in finding educational and occupational alternatives. These types of additional support will be extended to students from John Jay next year. Long-range administrative planning may include discussion of whether the New Start program is sufficiently appropriate for such students.

The second planned effort concerns incoming students. As a result of some administrative difficulties precipitated, in part, by the rapid expansion of the program this year, nearly one-third of the students admitted for Fall, 1987, and about one-half of the new Spring, 1988, students were not identified as New Start until, in many cases, near the end of the semester. These students missed many essential benefits of the program, including orientation, special registration and academic advisement, early credit evaluation, and immediate and continued assistance from New Start counselors. Previous reports have shown that a student's first semester in New Start is crucial in relation to subsequent academic performance and retention (Winchell, 1986, 1987). Therefore, during the coming year somewhat more emphasis will be placed on enhancing the program's services to students with the goal of increasing the likelihood of their success.

Table 1

New Start Program Enrollment by Semester and by Previous College

	Previous College									
Semester	BK	SI	Q	JJ	L	H	M	A	BA	Total
Fall '85 (entering/continuing)	51 (51/-)									51 (51/-)
Spring '86 (entering/continuing)	55 (12/43)									55 (12/43)
Fall '86 (entering/continuing	121 (84/37)	37 (37/-)	6 (6/-)							164 (127/37)
Spring '87 (entering/continuing)	150 (47/103)	28 (0/28)	8 (3/5)							186 (50/136)
Fall '87 (entering/continuing)	175 (74/101)	33 (22/11)	21 (14/7)	44 (44/-)	2 (2/-)	2 (2/-)	1 (1/-)	0 (0/-)		278 (159/119)
Spring '88 (entering/continuing)	163 (35/128)	29 (9/20)	18 (0/18)	48 (14/34)	2 (0/2)	5 (4/1)	1 (0/1)	0 (0/0)	12 (12/-)	278 (74/204)
Total Participants	303	68	23	58	2	6	1	0	12	473
% Of Total	64.0	14.4	4.9	12.3	0.4	1.3	0.2	0.0	2.5	100.0

BK = Brooklyn
SI = Staten Island
Q = Queens
JJ = John Jay
L = Lehman
H = Hunter
M = Maritime
A = Adelphi
BA = Baruch

Table 2

New Start Students' Curricula at KCC (9/85-6/88)

Curriculum	Previous College								Total	%
	BK	SI	Q	JJ	L	H	M	BA		
Liberal Arts	72	6	7	31	1	1	0	4	122	25.8
Business Administration	64	19	5	10	0	0	0	3	101	21.4
Accounting	44	6	2	0	0	1	0	2	55	11.6
Nursing/Pre-Nursing	14	6	0	1	0	2	0	0	23	4.9
Marketing Management	12	4	0	1	0	0	0	2	19	4.0
Early Childhood Ed.	12	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	17	3.6
Biology	11	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	16	3.4
Data Processing	9	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	15	3.2
Secretarial/Office Adm.	7	3	0	2	0	1	0	0	13	2.8
Pre-Physical Therapy	8	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	12	2.5
Computer Science	6	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	10	2.1
Broadcasting	7	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	1.7
Mental Health	3	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	8	1.7
Sports, Fitness & Rec.	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	1.7
Mathematics	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	1.5
Travel & Tourism	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	7	1.5
Chemistry	3	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	5	1.1
Journalism	1	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	5	1.1
Fashion Merchandise	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0.8
Fisheries & Marine Tech.	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	0.6
Community Health	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0.4
Fine Arts	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.4
Music	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.4
Theatre	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.4
Personnel & Labor Rel.	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.4
Physics	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.4
Education Associate	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.2
Engineering Science	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.2
Envir. Health & Science	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.2
Total	303	68	23	58	2	6	1	12	473	100.0

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M = Maritime
BA = Baruch

Table 3

KCC Degrees Awarded to New Start Students: June, 1986 - June, 1988

Degree		Previous College BK	SI	Total
AA	Liberal Arts	18	0	18
AAS	Business Adm.	10	2	12
AAS	Accounting	6	0	6
AAS	Data Processing	4	0	4
AAS	Travel & Tourism	3	0	3
AAS	Marketing Mgmt.	1	1	2
AAS	Broadcasting	2	0	2
AAS	Early Childhood Ed.	2	0	2
AS	Community Health	0	1	1
AS	Mathematics	1	0	1
AAS	Nursing	1	0	1
AAS	Education Associate	1	0	1
	Total	49	4	53

BK = Brooklyn
SI = Staten Island

Table 4

1987-88 New Start Students' Cumulative Grade Point Averages as of June, 1988, by Previous College

	Previous College									
GPA	BK	SI	Q	JJ	L	H	M	BA	TOTAL	%
3.00 and above	59	6	6	3	1	2	1	1	79	22.3
2.00 - 2.99	92	17	9	23	0	1	0	6	148	41.7
below 2.00	62	19	6	32	1	3	0	5	128	36.0
Total	213	42	21	58	2	6	1	12	355	100.0
Median GPA	2.31	2.00	2.56	1.72	2.06	2.19	3.25	2.13	2.22	

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Table 5

1987-88 New Start Students' Cumulative Rates of Completion as of June, 1988, by Previous College

RATE OF COMPLETION	Previous College									
	BK	SI	Q	JJ	L	H	M	BA	TOTAL	%
100%	96	16	5	17	0	2	1	7	144	40.6
75-99%	67	11	8	16	0	1	0	2	105	29.6
50-74%	26	6	7	12	1	1	0	2	55	15.5
Below 50%	24	9	1	13	1	2	0	1	51	14.3
Total	213	42	21	58	2	6	1	12	355	100.0
Median Rate of Completion	93%	88%	83%	77%	50%	82%	100%	100%	90%	

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L = Lehman
H = Hunter
M = Maritime
BA = Baruch

Table 6

Comparison of 1987-88 Cumulative Grade Point Averages And Rates Of Completion For New Start Students From Baccalaureate Programs And From Associate Programs

GPA	Baccalaureate (BK,Q,L,H,M,BA)		Associate (SI,JJ)	
	N	%	N	%
3.00 and above	70	27.5	9	9.0
2.00 - 2.99	108	42.3	40	40.0
below 2.00	77	30.2	51	51.0
Total	255	100.0	100	100.0
Median GPA	2.31		1.94	
Rate Of Completion				
100%	111	43.5	33	33.0
75 - 99%	78	30.6	27	27.0
50 - 74%	37	14.5	18	18.0
below 50%	29	11.4	22	22.0
Total	255	100.0	100	100.0
Median Rate	93%		83%	

BK = Brooklyn
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Table 7

Enrollment Status Of New Start Students As Of End Of Spring, 1988

	Previous College									
Status	BK	SI	Q	JJ	L	H	M	BA	Total	%
grad./trans.[a]	73	6	0	0	0	0	0	NA	79	16.7
continuing[b]	149	28	15	42	2	5	1	12	254	53.7
drop./trans.[c]	55	27	4	10	0	1	0	0	97	20.5
dismissed[d]	26	7	4	6	0	0	0	NA	43	9.1
Total	303	68	23	58	2	6	1	12	473	100.0

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a graduated and/or known to have transferred to senior colleges

b continuing at KCC (includes candidates for 8/88 graduation)

c dropped out/stopped out from KCC (includes some who transferred to other colleges)

d dismissed from KCC (includes dismissals for 9/88)

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Q = Queens
JJ = John Jay
L = Lehman
H = Hunter
M = Maritime
BA = Baruch

PUBLICATIONS ABOUT KINGSBOROUGH'S NEW START PROGRAM

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BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11235

OFFICE OF THE DEAN OF STUDENTS

NEW START PROGRAM

Fact Sheet

Eligibility

Students whose academic records at participating senior colleges ordinarily would make them ineligible to transfer to Kingsborough in good standing may enter the New Start Program if they have previously earned no more than 60 college credits.

Participating senior colleges are: Brooklyn College, Queens College, College of Staten Island, John Jay College, Hunter College, Lehman College, SUNY Maritime College, Adelphi University, and Baruch College.

Benefits of the Program

New Start participants are admitted to Kingsborough as matriculated students in good standing.

Up to 30 of a New Start student's previously earned credits (including D grades from CUNY colleges) can be used toward an associate degree at Kingsborough.

Grades from previous colleges are not carried over into the Kingsborough cumulative grade point average.

With an associate degree from Kingsborough, A New Start graduate is guaranteed admission to any CUNY senior college other than the college previously attended. (A student who wishes to return to his/her previous college may appeal for readmission there but should check with that college concerning its policies.) New Start graduates have also been accepted at SUNY and private colleges.

Services Available

All participants in the program are assigned a counselor to assist them with academic, career, personal, and transfer questions and concerns.

New Start students whose admission applications are completed at least one month before the start of a semester are entitled to special early registration for their first semester at Kingsborough.

All of the College's tutorial, remedial, and support services are available to New Start students.

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